

**What: Olympic Thank You**

**When: Friday, September 6, 3:00**

**Who: All Georgia Tech employees have been invited.**

Good afternoon and welcome to our Olympic and Paralympic appreciation celebration! We planned today's event to say thank you for all of the hard work and effort you put forth to help make Georgia Tech's Olympic experience an unqualified success. This celebration is for all of us to:

1. Say goodbye to ACOG.
2. Join together in appreciation for the job all of us did to create the world's best Olympic Village.
3. Share our joy for the wonderful personal achievements by the Tech community related to the Olympics - the torch, the athletic performances, the creative and performing arts.
4. Bask in the glow of knowing that we helped our city, this state and our nation in putting on the world's largest sporting event.
5. Stand together and say how glad we are as a community to have our beloved campus back again!

Welcome to one and all.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the wonderful testimonials we have

received recognizing our efforts and contributions. Letters have been received from Governor Zell Miller, Mayor Bill Campbell, Ambassador Andrew Young, ACOG CEO Billy Payne and President Bill Clinton. Today, I'd like to read to you a few excerpts from those letters.

Governor Miller wrote:

“The Georgia Tech team turned in what can only be described as a gold medal performance. Please let your students, staff, and faculty know how much I appreciate what they have done for the state of Georgia and the city of Atlanta.”

Bill Campbell's letter included the following:

“The Atlanta Games could not have been the success that they were without the contributions of the Tech community.”

Andrew Young, co-chairman of ACOG, had the following to say:

“.....I hope you will convey to them the most heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation of ACOG. The folks at Georgia Tech were probably the most inconvenienced by the Games of any group of people and their efforts were a valuable gift to the citizens of Atlanta and the world sports community.”

Billy Payne, CEO of ACOG, wrote:

“... Georgia Tech demonstrated its excellence to the world and deserves extraordinary credit for the success of the Games. . . . Together we have established a new standard by which all future Olympic Games will be measured, and I will always be grateful for the contribution of Georgia Tech to the success of the Centennial Olympic Games.”

And finally, President Clinton was also extremely impressed by our Olympic effort. A paragraph from his letter states,

"I was very impressed by the Olympic Village -- you have created a campus that will enhance the Georgia Institute of Technology for years to come. The Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta were historic in many ways, and you can be proud of your part in ensuring their success."

Each of those letters makes me very proud--especially when I consider that our focus during the last few years has not been on the Olympics, but on providing a top-notch technological education for our students.

Everyone--and I do mean everyone--on this campus is responsible for our success. Although I would like to be able to thank everyone individually for their

efforts, I'm afraid that would be impossible. I could do it, but I doubt too many of you would stick around long enough for me to read the entire Georgia Tech directory.

Although, it would be impossible to recognize all of the Georgia Tech students, faculty, alumni, and staff who helped make our Olympic and Paralympic dream a reality, it is possible to recognize those in our community who actually competed in the Atlanta Olympics. Therefore it is my pleasure to introduce Georgia Tech's Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Athletes, would you please wave your hand when I call out your name:

- Alumnus and weightlifter Bryan Jacob;
- Alumnus and marksman Barbaro Ponce; and
- students and kayakers Scott Shipley and Eric Giddens.

Although they could not be with us today, I would like to also acknowledge our two gold medalists, Derrick Atkins and Derek Mills. Both Dereks earned their gold medals in track. Cite the 167 countries we beat out in gold medal count.

Two Georgia Tech coaches were also instrumental in helping athletes achieve gold. Basketball Coach Bobby Cremins was an assistant coach of the Dream Team and Track Coach Grover Hinsdale, although not an official Olympic coach, was the individual

track coach for our two gold medalists, Derrick Atkins and Derek Mills.

Clearly our Olympic adventure was a winner. But, even though the Olympic moment burned brightly, it was brief and is gone. The famous Olympic athlete Jesse Owens once said the Olympics were a "lifetime of training for 10 seconds of glory." Although our preparations for the Olympics may have seemed to last a lifetime--the opposite is true for Georgia Tech. We spent just six years preparing for the Games, but the glory, global recognition, and improved infrastructure will last well beyond our lifetimes.

Let me close by the following:

First, Georgia Tech showed its mettle by not only doing the impossible in serving as the Olympic Village and host to two venues, it did its regular job superbly at the same time - cite rankings.

Second, the events surrounding the games showed us perhaps more clearly than ever before that we are an extended family - the shared pride at our accomplishments, the secret Tech recognition when we saw each other in ACOG-land, and our shared concerns about our campus.

Finally, all of you should know that I think you deserve to have gold medals hung around your neck; we couldn't have done it without you. Please enjoy yourself today and on your way out, don't forget to

pick up the small token of appreciation we have for  
you. Thank you.